

GAME FACE

INDIANS SCOREBOOK MAGAZINE

JACOB'S FIELD
HOME OF THE
CLEVELAND
Indians



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1998 DCS PROGRAM



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Player and manager photos: Gregory Drezdzon

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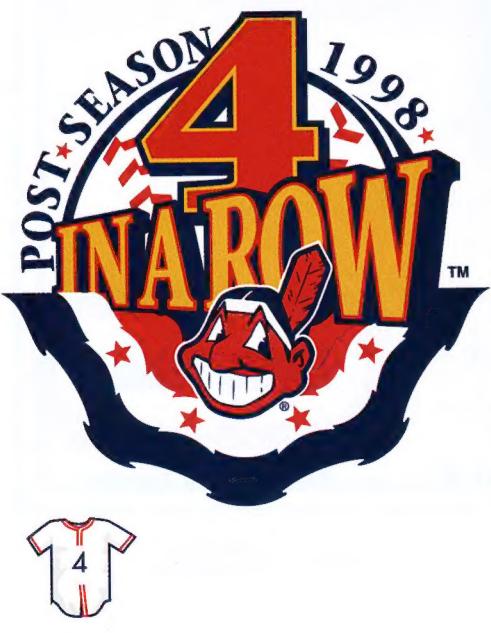


Photo: Gregory Drezdzon



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JACOBS FIELD 10TH MAN SOCIETY

BASEBALL'S BEST FANS *by A.J. Bondi*



Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

To recognize the contribution of the fans in the success of the Tribe, the Indians created the 10th Man Society. Indians fans are all part of the Society — by virtue of their support.

That support has led to a Major-League record of sold-out games. Each home game the number of consecutive sell-outs is visibly advanced, as above.

"As a player, you go out onto the field in front of a sell-out crowd with fans cheering — sure, that pumps you up, it gets you going," said first baseman Jim Thome. "It definitely aids to your success without a doubt."

Even visiting ballplayers realize the magic of Jacobs Field.

"Don't like 'em," Seattle Mariners outfielder Ken Griffey Jr. responded playfully when asked about the Cleveland fans. "But it's a lot better playing in front of a sold-out crowd [in Cleveland] than playing in front of 4-5,000 people when I first started."

Not only do the fans fill the ballpark night after night, they create a frenzy. This frenzy begins long before they enter the turnstiles. The demand for Indians tickets has been overwhelming over the last three seasons. The Cleveland Indians are the only Major League team to sell out all 81 home games in advance of the start of the season — and they've done it for three years in a row.

10th Man Society Con't — Pg. 10



**10th Man Society
Con't from Pg. 8**

To help honor this dedication and passion the Cleveland fans have for their ballclub, the Indians have been celebrating the 10th Man for the 1998 season. This consisted of a variety of promotional activities to pay tribute to the fans' achievements and to recognize their importance to the organization. These activities began on Opening Day and took place at every home game during the regular season.

Cleveland Indians/WUAB 43 10th Man Championship Ring

The Cleveland Indians players, coaches, and key associates were given a championship ring to commemorate the 1997 American League Championship. On Opening

Day, Dave Sheppa from Bay Village, OH was also awarded an authentic championship ring representing the "10th Man" in all fans of the Indians. After sending in post cards, he was selected as the winner in the Cleveland Indians/WUAB Channel 43 sweepstakes and received his ring with the team.

"When Channel 43 came to my house to tape the segment on me being chosen, I couldn't believe it," said Sheppa. "It was better than a dream come true. I feel I'm just an average fan who was chosen for the honor of keeping this ring."

The ring has made Sheppa very popular among friends and family and he's nearly reached celebrity status.

"Most people are familiar with the ring and are excited just to try



Photo: Gregory Drezdow

During Opening Day ceremonies, Indians fan Dave Sheppa received his ring. The lucky sweepstakes winner is now a celebrity among friends and family and says everyone is ready to "talk Tribe" with him.

it on," Sheppa said. "The Indians are so huge around town that it's a great conversation piece. It's something I'll have for the rest of my days. It's never been for sale . . . won't be for sale . . . and will never leave my possession. It's just too precious to me."

By winning the ring, Sheppa feels his role as a fan has changed quite a bit.

"It seems like now that I have the ring, everybody wants to talk Tribe with me," said Sheppa. "They say things like, 'What did the Indians do?' or 'What do you think of this roster move?' All of a sudden, I have to be a lot more knowledgeable about the Indians than I was in the past because everybody wants to talk about the Indians."

Dave Sheppa wears his ring with pride and enthusiasm, making him an exemplary representative for the 10th Man at Jacobs Field.

10th Man Fan of the Game

At every home game during the 1998 campaign, the 10th Man was honored during a small ceremony that took place on the left-field bridge. Along with the **JACOBS FIELD 10TH MAN SOCIETY** logo there is a three-digit number that coincides with the number of consecutive sell-outs. With all games sold out, the number must be changed at every home game. One lucky fan during each home game is given the honor of changing the sign with Tribe mascot Slider.

Jason Klein of the Indians Broadcasting and Special Events department, hand-selects the individual who represents Indians fans everywhere by changing the number. Selecting these fans was no easy task.

10th Man Society Con't — Pg. 16



10th Man Society Con't from Pg. 10

"I'd walk around the ballpark at least two times and try to find a fan who seemed really into the game, a fan who looked like he or she really wanted to be here — a real fan," said Klein. "When I'd find that person, I'd ask them, 'How would you like to represent every Indians fan in the world by changing our 10th Man sign?' Usually, they were very receptive and happy to do it. **I never had anyone say no.** They feel it's an honor."

Jeff Henry was selected to change the sign, August 29. Jeff was dressed in his Tribe gear and was truly excited to have an opportunity to be a part of the game.

"Jacobs Field is a great experience," said Henry. "I've been a fan all my life, ever since my father brought me to the old stadium. To change the sign here today to the next consecutive sell-out number is wonderful. This is just great."

The consecutive sell-out sign has become a very recognizable part of the ballpark and the game. Hopefully, the streak will remain intact for a long time to come and many more fans will have a chance to do the honors of changing the numbers.

10th Man Society Con't — Pg. 18

Sold-out crowds, below, are the "norm" at Jacobs Field. At left, the number indicating the sell-out record is changed by a lucky fan. By the end of the regular season, the Indians sell-out record — the best in Major League Baseball — reached 292.

Photo: Gregory Drezdzon



Photo: Gregory Drezdzon



At right and below, yet another lucky fan is assisted by Slider in changing the consecutive sell-out total.

"It's never been for sale . . . won't be for sale . . . and will never leave my possession. It's just too precious to me."

— Indians/WUAB 43 sweepstakes winner Dave Sheppa regarding the American League Championship ring he won as the honorary "10th Man," representing all Indians fans

"I never had anyone say no."

— Jason Klein of the Indians Broadcasting and Special Events department regarding the enthusiasm fans have when they are chosen as the honorary "10th Man" at each home game

FOX/WUAB/WTAM 10th Man Contest

This past August, the Indians developed another promotion to pay tribute to the fans at Jacobs Field. This contest was geared toward those who don't come to the ballpark on a regular basis. Fans listening to games on WTAM or watching games on FOX or WUAB

were asked to send in an essay, 50 words or less, on how they contribute to the magic of Jacobs Field from their own home.

The winners had their names announced as the 10th Man during the starting lineup on all radio broadcasts and each televised game. Those fans selected also won an official 10th Man t-shirt and qualified to win tickets to the final weekend series called "Shirts Off Our Backs" Fan Appreciation Day.

Jason Klein also assisted in the

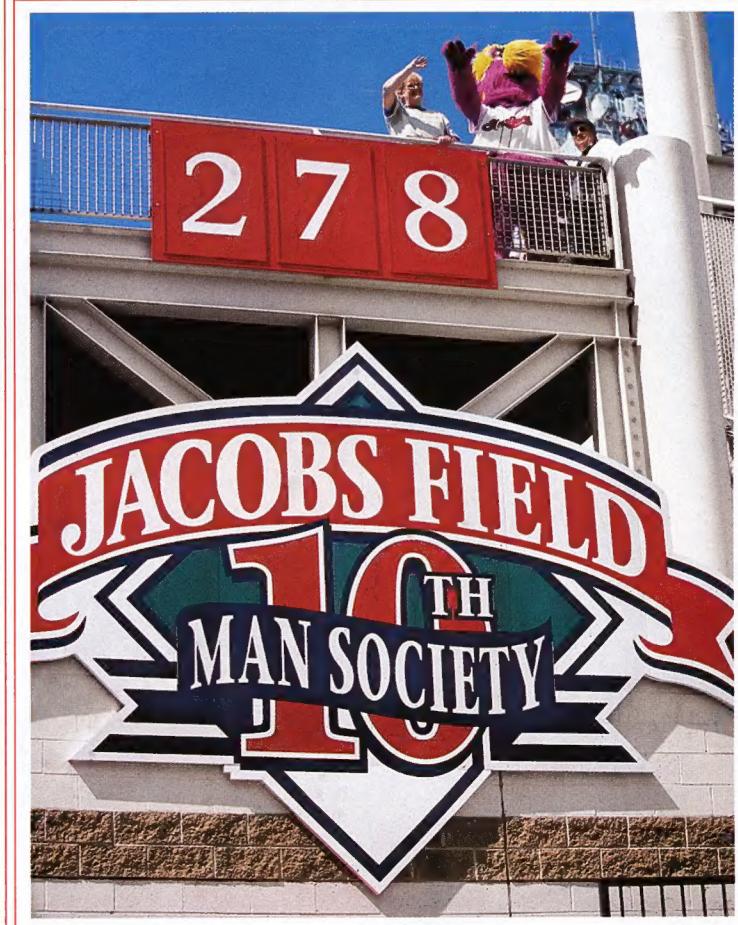


Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

selection of the winners of this promotion. **"What we looked for was a fan that went the extra mile," said Klein.** "The contest was for those fans who weren't able to be here, but cheer and contribute in spirit from home. It was just one way to let them know we acknowledge their presence and how much it's appreciated."

Over the last three years, the Indians have established themselves as a winning team. The players have done their part to contribute to the success of the organization. The fans have also done their part to help carry on the winning tradition. The Indians dugout roof says it the best: "Welcome to Jacobs Field. Home of Baseball's Best Fans." ♦



Photo: Gregory Drezdzon





WELCOME TO JACOBS FIELD

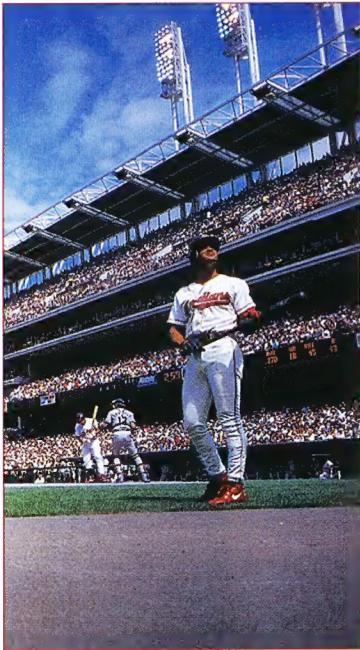


Photo: Gregory Drezdow

"It is our intention to make our home a safe, comfortable, family-oriented facility so every trip to Jacobs Field is most enjoyable."

"We believe these fan ground rules will ensure the intimate environment that we all seek."

— Dennis Lehman, Indians Executive Vice President of Business

Baseball's most important pitch this season won't come from a mound. In an effort to combat drinking and driving, Major League Baseball, together with the Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management (TEAM) coalition, continues to make a comprehensive appeal to fans this year. The message: PLEASE DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!

As part of the TEAM program, each Major League club reviews its alcohol policies and runs public service announcements asking fans to drink responsibly and warns them against the consequences of drinking and driving.

The Cleveland Indians want you safe, because we want you back. Please drink responsibly.

In an effort to make everyone's visit to the Ballpark as safe and enjoyable as possible, a list of guidelines has been developed.

The Indians ask that you follow these guidelines, or be subject to ejection from the Ballpark, and in some cases, subject to criminal prosecution by the Cleveland Police Department.

To ensure that each game is a pleasant experience for each and every guest, the Indians have established the following "Ground Rules:"

- Jacobs Field is a non-smoking facility with designated smoking areas. Non-smoking areas include: the entire seating bowl of the Ballpark (including the outdoor seating of Suites and Club Seats); KidsLand; and all public rest rooms. Smoking is permitted in the following areas: Back Yard; Patio area on the Main Concourse; all three concourse levels (Main, Mezzanine, and Upper Deck) on the East Ninth Street side of the Ballpark and Upper Deck pavilion area on the Carnegie side of the Ballpark (all of these locations are open-air areas with picnic tables, concession stands, and rest room facilities nearby); Bleacher Concourse on the Eagle

Avenue side of the Ballpark. In addition, the Terrace Club and Club Lounge have both smoking and non-smoking areas. Jacobs Field has signage identifying designated smoking areas for your convenience.

- Cans, glass bottles, plastic beverage containers, thermos bottles, and squeeze bottles are not permitted into Jacobs Field.
- Due to security concerns, hard-sided coolers and containers are not permitted. Soft-sided containers and coolers are permitted.
- Food items and juice boxes are permitted inside the Ballpark, provided they are not inside a hard-sided cooler or container.
- Pets are not allowed inside the Ballpark. However, guide dogs for persons with sight disabilities are permitted.
- The resale (scalping) of Indians tickets is strictly prohibited and subject to prosecution by the Cleveland Police Department.
- Fans are permitted to bring and display banners, provided they do not interfere with the game, obstruct the view of fans, or carry obscene, political or commercial messages. Banners may be hung from the facing of the Upper Deck. Poles and sticks are strictly prohibited.
- Fans may bring small umbrellas into Jacobs Field as long as they do not interfere with other fans' enjoyment of the game. Large golf umbrellas are discouraged.
- Cameras and video recorders are permitted. However, any resale of the photography or video is strictly prohibited. Team name, logos, and players' likenesses are all copyrighted material.
- Persons observed breaking the law (eg. using illegal drugs, or drinking alcohol underage) will be subject to immediate ejection and/or criminal prosecution.
- Persons using obscene or abusive language, or engaging in any other antisocial conduct offensive to those around them, will be asked by Indians personnel to cease this conduct. If the offensive conduct persists, those involved will be ejected from Jacobs Field.
- Persons entering the playing field, throwing or attempting to throw objects onto the field, will be subject to immediate ejection from Jacobs Field and/or criminal prosecution.

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or problems, please visit one the Guest Service Centers located at Section 116 of the Main Concourse and in Section 519 of the Upper Concourse, or see one of our hosts throughout the Ballpark. The Indians thank you for your cooperation.



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Make any special occasion more exciting by inviting Indians Mascot Slider to get in on the action. Creating his usual havoc and fun, Slider will make your next private or corporate event a memorable experience for all.

Detailed information on scheduling a personal appearance is available by calling (216) 420-4435.

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August



Photo: Gregory Drezdzon



INDIANS FANS IN CYBERSPACE now have an **extra way** to follow the Tribe.

It's IndiansXtra, the new subscription website to supplement the team's official home at www.indians.com.

IndiansXtra offers fans around the world who log on a package of team, player, and game information designed and compiled by the Indians for fans who need more than just the broadcast and main website offerings.

IndiansXtra features daily game coverage including extensive player and team statistics, pre and postgame audio interviews and video game highlights. IndiansXtra offers fans a comprehensive news and information source right at the user's desktop, and for some breaking news, IndiansXtra e-mails news releases and information to subscribers.

IndiansXtra features live chat with players and local celebrities such as Indians radio personality Geoff Sindelar.

IndiansXtra subscribers receive daily game notes, just like those provided to the news media in the Jacobs Field press box. Subscribers even have the option of having daily game notes e-mailed to them. IndiansXtra subscribers also receive full audio coverage of all 1998 regular season Tribe games featuring Tom Hamilton, Dave Nelson, and Mike Hegan via broadcast.com.

In addition to statistics, news, and game information, IndiansXtra subscribers will receive complete issues of the Indians in-park magazine, Game Face.

A subscription to IndiansXtra costs \$7.95 per month or \$65.00 for the entire year. However, fans may obtain IndiansXtra free as a signing bonus if they subscribe to Ameritech.net, Ameritech's internet dial-up service.

Fans can get details and sign up for IndiansXtra's seven-day free trial online at www.indians.com.

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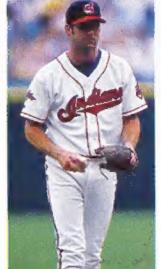
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The Tribe advances on the Tigers with a 7-4 win.


CLEVELAND - The Indians continued their domination over the Tigers at Jacobs Field on Monday by defeating Detroit 7-4. The Tribe is now 23-3 (.884) against the Tigers at Jacobs Field and 37-10 (.787) overall since 1994.
Tribe starter Charles Nagy recorded his sixth victory (6-2) of the

SEARCH THE SITE Go

Do you want to know more about Dwight Gooden? Then check out his recent [interview](#).

Follow this [link](#) for the latest Tribe Press Release regarding RHP Dwight Gooden.

Did you know that audio, video, and images are available of every game? Check out our [archives](#) for past game coverage.

Having problems watching the video or hearing the audio? Check out the [Gear Page](#) for updated information.

IndiansXtra - extra everything for **EXTRA**ordinary fans!





IN THE COMMUNITY

INDIANS WIVES QUILT RAFFLE RAISES \$41,500 FOR MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION

The Cleveland Indians Wives Association drew the winning ticket of their annual quilt raffle on Saturday, August 29 at Jacobs Field in a pregame on-field ceremony before the Indians played the Oakland A's.

Since the wives began the raffle in 1995, they've raised nearly \$160,000 for Make-A-Wish.

The wives began selling tickets for the raffle on July 10, 1998 during each Indians home game in section 134 of the ballpark. Each square on this unique quilt represents a member of the 1997 American League Championship team and is autographed by that player.

The wives generated \$41,500 from the sale of tickets. All proceeds benefitted the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Northeast Ohio.

Northeast Ohio, a non-profit agency that grants wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses. Since the wives began the raffle in 1995, they've raised nearly \$160,000 for Make-A-Wish.

The quilt was produced by Gary Levy, of Embroidered, I.D. of Solon, OH and designed by Vicky Adamany, the mother of a Make-A-Wish youngster. That youngster, Brandon Adamany, drew the winning ticket.

As part of the ceremony, Christie Alomar, president of

the Wives Association, presented a symbolic check to Alan Dahart, President and CEO of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Northeast Ohio, Inc.

Christie Alomar, president of the Wives Association, presented a symbolic check to Alan Dahart, President and CEO of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Northeast Ohio, Inc.

In another major event earlier this season, the Wives held a canned food drive at Jacobs Field on July 26 to benefit the Cleveland Food Bank. That effort raised \$3,436.50 in cash donations and collected 975 pounds of food for Cleveland's less fortunate. The wives also made a symbolic check presentation to the Food Bank as part of that Saturday's ceremony.

The Cleveland Indians Wives Association is a group of players' and coaches' wives who come together during the season to take part in various activities for the betterment of the community and to unite the wives. For years, the wives have been actively involved with charity fundraisers and civic-minded activities. ▶



Photo: Gregory Drezdzon





POST-SEASON EXPERIENCE

BEEN THERE. DONE THAT.

by Jim Ingraham

How important is **experience in the post season** for attaining further success in the post season?

Well, it's either very important, or not very important at all.

In 1995, when the Indians made their first appearance in the post season in 41 years, almost none of the players on the roster had ever been in a post-season game — yet the Indians that year made it all the way to Game 6 of the World Series.

In 1997, the Indians had tons of experience in the post season. Most of the players on the roster had post-season experience from 1995 and 1996. In 1997 the Indians again made it all the way to the World Series, this time to Game 7.

This year's Indians have more post-season experience than any of the Tribe teams that made it to the World Series twice in the

previous three years. Travis Fryman, one of the Tribe players with the most regular season experience, is the only Tribe starter who has no post-season experience. Everybody else has been there, done that. At least once, some more than once. In fact, for some it's become a habit. Like David Justice.

Justice and Fryman both reached the big leagues for good in 1990. Fryman's next post-season at-bat will be his first post-season at-bat. Justice's next post-

season at-bat will be the 229th of his career.

As a player, getting to the post season is a little like selling real estate. The three most important things are location, location, and location.

Until this year, Fryman had spent his entire career with the Detroit Tigers, whose last trip to the post season came three years before he arrived.

Justice, on the other hand, is an October regular. Having played for the Braves and the Indians, Justice's teams have been in the post season **EVERY YEAR** since 1991.

"To me, the big thing about having post-season experience is that when you get there, you're not in awe of it," said Justice. "If you haven't been there before, you don't know what to expect, and that may cause you to change the way you think you're supposed to approach it."

That, says Justice, is the essence of post-season experience.

"Everyone's trying to win in the post season," he said, "but maybe the guys who haven't been there think they have to change the way they try to win."

Several Indians players who have post-season experience agree with Justice. The feeling seems to be that the most important thing about having been there and done that is that the players are better able to shut out all the peripheral distractions — which is no easy task in the post season — and concentrate better on what's most important during the most important month of the baseball season: October.

"There's more room for mistakes in the regular season. Not in the post season."

— Tribe catcher, Sandy Alomar



Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

Travis Fryman, pictured above, is experiencing his first post season.

Sandy Alomar, bottom of facing page, caught every post-season game for the Indians last year.

David Justice, top of facing page, has nearly 230 plate appearances in the post season.

And that, of course, is winning. Winning is why they are there. Winning is all that matters.

"In the post season, every out, every at-bat is big, because it can change the complexion of the game," said Charles Nagy. "If you miss a cutoff man, it can lead to a run, and every run is important."

Indeed, it's the day-in-day-out pressure to perform at peak efficiency that makes the post season such a grind.

"You just can't make mistakes," said Sandy Alomar. "Or if you do make mistakes, you've got to minimize them. There's more room for mistakes in the regular season. Not in the post season."

One of the lessons several players mentioned they've learned from the post season is that personal glory or statistics take a back seat to what's best for the team. All energies are directed toward the team.

"You've got to tell yourself that you can't be a hero every day," said Jim Thome. "You've got to concentrate on doing the little things. You're not going to get the big hit every game, so everyone has to pick each other up and try to do something positive for the team in every at-bat.

Of course, saying it can be a lot easier than doing it . . . because it must be done under the choking pressure and relentless spotlight that is the post season. In the post season, every play, every managerial move, every everything is dissected and analyzed and — frequently — second guessed.

"Sometimes the pressure can make you do weird things," said Omar Vizquel. "There's a lot of tension. It's definitely stressful, especially mentally. It's hard to stay focused."

One of the reasons for that is that the post season, done right, can last for nearly a month. The Indians played 19 post-season games last year, the last of which came on October 26.

"By the end of the post season last year," said Alomar, who caught all 165 innings the Indians played, "I was exhausted. But it's so exciting you don't even feel the pain."

In addition to catching every game of last year's post season, Alomar also set a Major League record with 19 RBI, not to mention hitting that stunning home run off the Yankees' Mariano Rivera in the eighth inning of a win-or-go-home Game 4 of the Division Series, a game ultimately won by the Indians 3-2.

"The intensity in the post season is unlike anything in the regular season," said Alomar. "You can be hurt, and you don't feel it. But that month can be very draining, more mentally than physically."

And it's not just baseball that saps the strength. It's all the other distractions that come from playing in the post season.

"It can last a whole month, and every game is a grind," said Nagy. "It's



Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

"You've got to concentrate on doing the little things. You're not going to get the big hit every game. . . ."

— First baseman, Jim Thome



Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

intense for everyone. The players. The fans. The media. In the post season, everything is increased tenfold from the regular season."

Post-Season Experience Con't — Pg. 38

**Post-Season Experience Con't
from Pg. 37**

Both Charles Nagy, at right, and Jim Thome, below, believe experience is a plus in the playoffs.

"My advice to a young player in the post season for the first time would be 'don't read the newspapers or watch TV. Just concentrate on your job.'"

— Indians shortstop, Omar Vizquel

And that's why it's helpful to have some experienced hands around to help prepare those less experienced players for the unique and intensity-filled atmosphere that is the post season.

In 1995 the Indians had old hands such as Eddie Murray, Dennis Martinez, and Orel Hershiser around to lead the way.

"I know for me personally as a pitcher, it was great to have Orel and Dennis around," said Nagy. "They had experienced all these situations, and as far as learning how to pitch in the post season, it was very helpful for me to talk to them."

Hershiser in particular was helpful.

"Orel said just go out and have fun and don't get caught up in the hoopla," said

Nagy. "Let your wife handle the ticket requests. You've got to try to minimize the distractions."

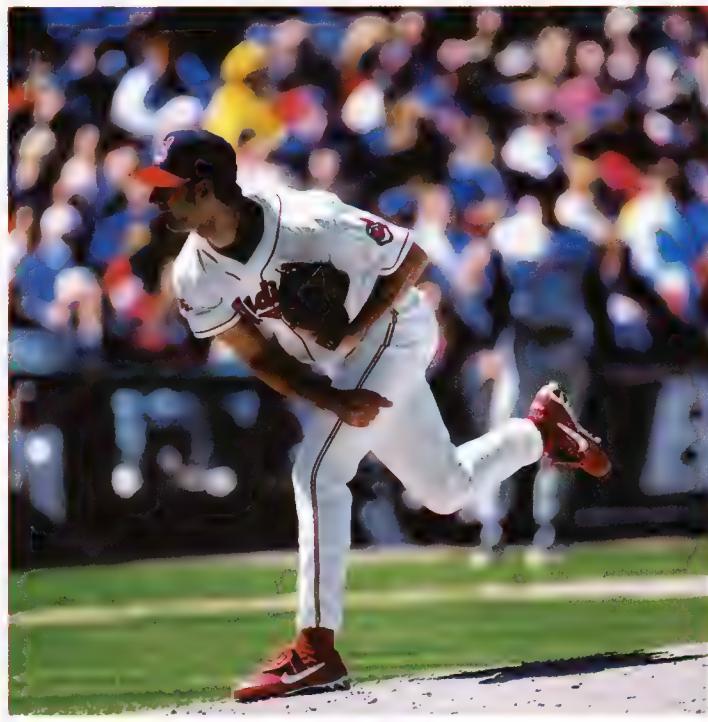


Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

But with reporters from around the country and around the world descending on a given post-season series, it can be tough for players to approach it like just another game. The pressure, intensity, and distractions are inherent in post-season play. The trick is to work around it.

"My advice to a young player in the post season for the first time would be 'don't read the newspapers or watch TV. Just concentrate on your job,'" said Vizquel.

Much of the pressure is due to the fact that there is no gray area in the post season.

"You don't want to face elimination," said Alomar.

"Everyone is laying it on the line every day because it's do or die," said Chad Ogea.

"That's why I think it's important to have experienced guys around," said Nagy. "They understand the magnitude of what's going on."

Players use all sorts of devices to minimize the pressure of the post



Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

Post-Season Experience Con't from Pg. 38

season. Ogea, who won two games in last year's World Series and might have been the Series MVP if the Indians had won, played his own particular mind game to reduce the pressure.

"In my mind I just pretended I was in my backyard playing ball and having fun," he said. "I think players can put too much pressure on themselves. The big thing is to have fun."

It is, after all, a game.

"Pressure? The spotlight? Heck, that's what makes this game fun," said Thome.

Alomar scoffs. "It's fun if you win," he said. "It's no fun if you lose."

Players react to post-season pressure in different ways. Some react by not reacting at all. Even inexperienced ones.

"I remember when I was with the Braves and we made it to the post season for the first time, in 1991," said Justice. "It was the first time for all of us, but we had an unusual chemistry and makeup. We were all young, 24, 25, 26, and most of us had never been there before,

but we weren't in awe of it. It wasn't like we were thinking, 'OK, we're in the post season, it would be great if we won it, but just getting here is an accomplishment.' We actually thought we were going to win the World Series. It was a unique mix of young guys who could flat out play. I've never seen anything like that."

Post-Season Experience Con't — Pg. 54

Chad Ogea, pictured right, has chalked up two victories in World Series play.

"In my mind I just pretended I was in my backyard playing ball and having fun."

— Pitcher Chad Ogea regarding his mindset when playing in the post season



Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

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OMAR VIZQUEL

A GAME OF PERCENTAGES

by Steve Herrick

Offensive records make the headlines and bring out the fans.

While the pursuit of the record for home runs in one season captivated America all summer, Indians shortstop Omar Vizquel quietly achieved another milestone.

As the Indians headed into September, **Vizquel was the all-time leader in the history of Major League Baseball in fielding percentage** among shortstops with at least 1,000 games played. Vizquel's .981 percentage topped Larry Bowa and Tony Fernandez, who were at .980. He also led Cal Ripken (.979), Ozzie Smith (.978), and Spike Owen (.977).

Tribe fans have known for five years how good of a defensive player Vizquel is. They also know how much Vizquel cares about his defense. He cares about it so much in fact, the mere mention of the record sends him scurrying in the opposite direction.

Whether he's leaping over opposing base runners to complete a double play (below and at right) or throwing from the ground (bottom right), Omar Vizquel completes spectacular plays — without error.

When asked his thoughts about having the top fielding percentage, Vizquel stuck his fingers in his ears, ran away and said, with a smile on his face, "I don't want to hear about it."

Vizquel might not want to talk about it, but other people do. Indians general manager John Hart and Tribe infield coach Johnny Goryl know they are watching one of the best when they see Vizquel in action.

"I've often said the first guy I'd like to see play if I dropped down my \$20 would be Omar," said Hart. "He's magical to watch. Our fans have had a great pleasure to watch one of the all-time great shortstops."

Goryl has been in professional baseball since 1951, including 16 years in the big leagues as a player, manager, and coach. He thinks Vizquel's accomplishment is amazing.

"Considering all the great shortstops who have played this game over all these years, it's pretty remarkable," said Goryl.

When second baseman Joey Cora was acquired from Seattle on August 31, he was glad to be on Vizquel's side. "I've been watching Omar for a long time," said Cora. "It's great to be playing with him."

Goryl doesn't think there's been anyone better than Vizquel, who has won five straight Gold Gloves. The last four have come with the Indians, who acquired him from Seattle on December 20, 1993 for Felix Fermin and Reggie Jefferson.

"I haven't seen anyone better," Goryl said. "I have seen Ozzie Smith once or twice, but when people such as (Florida



Photo: Gregory Drezdzon



manager) Jim Leyland, who have been in the game as long as he has, say Omar is better than anyone he's ever seen, that's saying a lot."

Vizquel, 31, had five errors in 638 total chances in the Indians' first 137 games. **He made only one error before the All-Star break** and appeared in his first Midsummer Classic. Vizquel had a streak of 70 straight errorless games dating back to last season and a stretch of 54 games without an error this season.

Most baseball people agree the fans are enamored with home runs and offensive numbers. In Vizquel's case, however, they make an exception. The Tribe fans who pack Jacobs Field every night appreciate a Vizquel defensive gem as much as a Manny Ramirez home run or a Bartolo Colon strikeout.

"I think the fans know," said Hart. "When you see Omar play, you realize how brilliant he is. He's unbelievable."

"People love to watch him play shortstop and make great plays," said Goryl. "Even in infield practice, he makes the unusual play work."

Goryl thinks it's a blessing to work with a player of Vizquel's stature. "From a coach's point of view, I can't ask for anyone more cooperative



Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

than Omar," said Goryl. "He listens. He's very professional. He's a leader on the infield."

Because of Vizquel's ability, there are times Goryl gives him free rein. "He's probably the only player who I let free-lance on how he wants to play," said Goryl. "I might tell him about a player or two, but other than that I leave it up to him."

Vizquel saves his finest plays for baseball's biggest stage — the Post Season. In 1995, he made the bare-handed grab and throw, a play most shortstops wouldn't even attempt, look routine.

"I've never seen that in a playoff game," said Goryl. "That's usually a last resort. He has no fear. He has great ability and he's not scared to use it."

Considering the circumstances, Vizquel's best play might have come in the sixth inning of Game 6 of last year's World Series when he went into the hole to spear Charles Johnson's ground ball and threw him out at first. The play killed a Florida rally and helped the Indians force Game 7.

"They ought to put that play in the archives," said Goryl.

Yes, they should. And while they're at it, they should put some extra room in the archives. When Vizquel's career is over, those archives could contain a record. And by that point, he might actually take his fingers out of his ears and want to hear about it. ▀



Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

"He's magical to watch . . . When you see Omar play, you realize how brilliant he is. He's unbelievable."

— Indians General Manager, John Hart



Post-Season Experience Con't from Pg. 42

Some teams fight off pressure and intensity as a team, such as Justice's Braves teams. Other times, players deal with it on an individual bases. For example, a player can call upon something from his background that will help him better cope with the pressure.

For Vizquel, it was thinking back to his childhood in Venezuela.

"When I was a kid, I always played baseball with older guys, and I learned a lot from them," he said. "There's a lot of pressure on you when you're young and playing with older players. It teaches you a lot. I think you learn more about self-control."

Vizquel said the pressure of having to keep up with the older players he played with as a child was helpful when he reached baseball's biggest stage, the World Series.

"Some guys put too much pressure on themselves and can't perform," he said. "I enjoy the pressure a lot. And I think I can play under pressure."

Most players say that while the pressure and intensity can be mentally draining, it is still, after all, a game. And the point of playing a game is having fun. Even if it is being watched by 60 or 70 million people.

"There's no reason not to have fun. You play as hard as you can and the best you can, and have fun with it," said Ogea.

"If you can't have fun playing in the post season, you've got the wrong set of priorities," said Justice.

"I always get pumped in the post season," said Alomar. "I think it brings out the best in you. The best thing about playing in the post season is you have a chance to shine in front of the whole world. People remember you more for what you do in the post season than the regular season."

Just ask Nagy.

Because the post season is, indeed, memories. Both good and bad.

Post-Season Experience Con't — Pg. 70



Photo: Gregory Drezdow

Indians shortstop Omar Vizquel, pictured above, feels his experience as a youngster — competing with and against older players — helped prepare him for the pressure of post-season games.

"I enjoy the pressure a lot. And I think I can play under pressure."

— Omar Vizquel

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Photos: Gregory Drezdow



HOW TO SCORE

Baseball fans can enjoy the sport to the fullest extent by keeping track of the game and pinpointing those big plays that bring victory or defeat. All you need is a basic knowledge of the rules.

Although there are countless scoring methods, experts use a simple code based on numbering players by position and tracing action through the use of symbols. It's easy and fun.

In fact, why not devise your own scoring system with the basic suggestions on this page.

One such suggestion on player substitutions is to use a heavy or wavy line under or over a box to indicate a change, either of a player or batter.

If a batter flies to the rightfielder, merely use the figure 9. If it is a foul fly, use 9F.

Now that you are an official "scorer," you can really enjoy baseball games.

TEAM	Pos.	1	2
Rightfielder	9	4-6 W	
2nd Baseman	4	3 ④FO	
1st Baseman	3	=	
Centerfielder	8	SF 8	
Designated Hitter	DH	K	
Leftfielder	7		4-6
Catcher	2		DP 4-6-3
3rd Baseman	5		≡
Shortstop	6		7
Pitcher	1		
R		1	1
TOTALS	H	1	2

Walked and was forced out at second (2nd baseman to shortstop).

Reached first on fielder's choice when runner was forced out, advanced to third on a double by 3rd place hitter, scored on 4th place hitter's sacrifice fly.

Doubled; did not advance further.

Flied out to center field scoring runner on third.

Struck out — end of the inning.

Singled: later forced out at second (2nd baseman to shortstop in first half of double play).

Hit into double play (2nd baseman to shortstop to 1st baseman).

Hit home run.

Flied out to leftfielder — end of inning.

Use these SYMBOLS for Plays

Single	—
Double	==
Triple	====
Home Run	≡
Error	E
Foul Fly	F
Double Play	DP
Fielder's Choice	FC
Hit by Pitcher	HP
Wild Pitch	WP
Stolen Base	SB
Sacrifice Hit	SH
Sacrifice Fly	SF
Caught Stealing	CS
Passed Ball	PB
Balk	BK
Struck Out	K
Base on Balls	BB
Forced Out	FO
Intentional Walk	IW

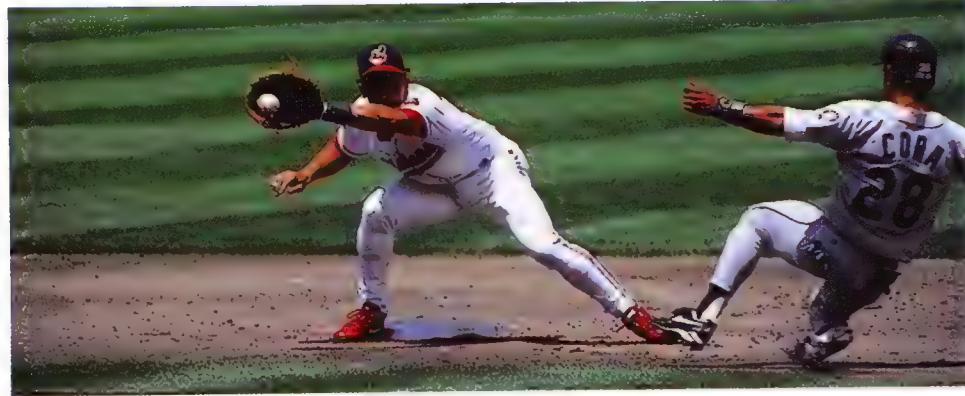


Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

Can You Score This Play ?

The ball was hit to the shortstop, who threw it to the second baseman. The second baseman was able to force out the runner who had been at first. He then threw the ball to the first baseman to get the batter out, turning a double play.

In this example...

The hitter reached first base on a walk, stole second, advanced to third on a pitcher's balk, and scored on a wild pitch.

BK	SB
WP	W



What If?

Continued from Page 64

Gordon answered for his manager, yelling, "He doesn't have to; he'd be standing where the ball was hit."

Alomar and Joey Cora were the first two Feller victims in the third. Lofton, after working the count to 3-2, fouled off six Feller pitches before walking. On the first pitch, he stole second base.

The crowd stirred. Lofton took his lead off second as Vizquel waited at the plate. Feller delivered ball one. Lofton increased his lead a step toward third. Feller threw high for ball two. Before his next pitch, Feller glanced back at Boudreau and saw his manager's glove resting against his left knee. The signal for the pickoff play.

Feller turned to Vizquel and counted to himself, "One one-thousand, two one-thousand . . ."

On his third count, he wheeled and fired back to Boudreau, who ran behind Lofton and slapped the tag on the centerfielder.

"Match that," the Cleveland manager said.

On the Indians bench, pitching coach Mark Wiley moved close to Hargrove, and said in a low voice, "I don't know who this guy on

the mound is, or who he's pretending to be, but if we sign him, we'll beat the Yankees, the Braves, or anybody else this year."

"Damn exhibition, that's all it is," Hargrove replied.

But by now, the game had become anything but. With the home crowd now behind the visitors, Doby led off the fourth with a single and moved to third on Boudreau's double in the right field gap. Gordon followed with a sac fly to score Doby, and Keltner slammed a double past Giles to bring home Boudreau. Nagy then took control and retired Kennedy and Robinson. The Cleveland team led 3-0.

In their half of the fourth, the Indians finally had enough of being treated like a visiting team at Jacobs Field.

Bob Lemon replaced Feller and quickly retired Cora, but Ramirez caught a Lemon sinker and hit a bomb into the rear of the bleachers in left field. The team greeted Ramirez in front of the dugout, winning back part of the crowd. Even Hargrove was fired up. "They want a game? We'll give them a game. Bring Colon in for a few innings," he said to Wiley.

What If? Continued on Page 88

1948
1998

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All proceeds benefit Cleveland Indians Charities.

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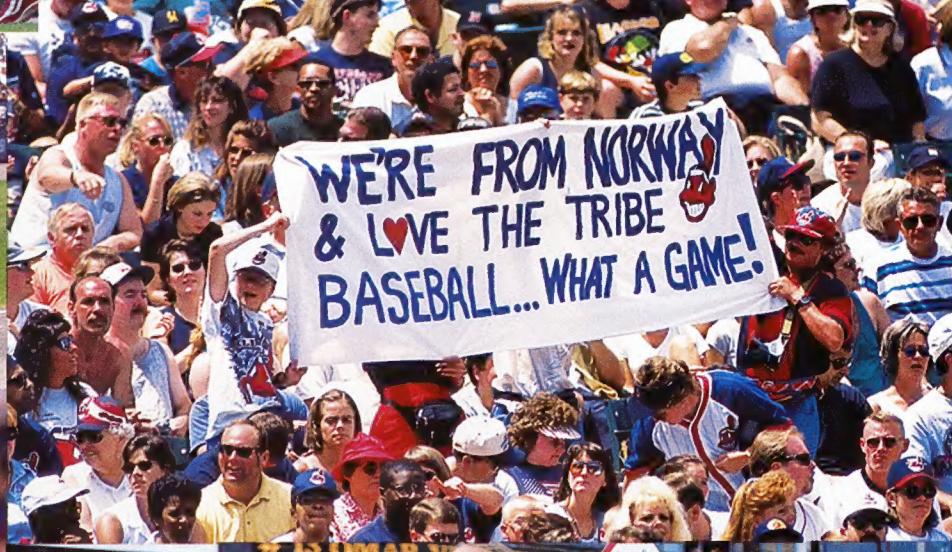
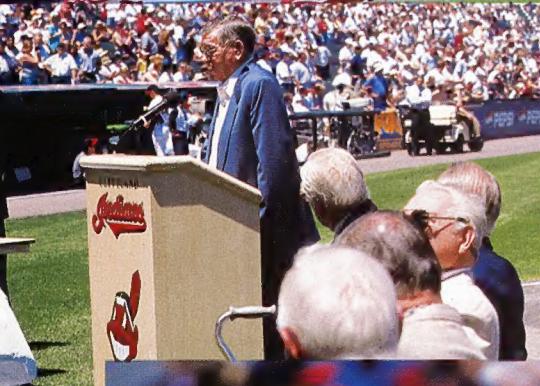
Photos: Gregory Drezdzon

Reservations: Please call the Community Relations department at (216) 420-4262 or stop by Guest Services, Section 116, during any home game and become a Major League broadcaster.



All photos: Gregory Drezdzon





All photos: Gregory Drezdzon



What If?

Continued from Page 48

Scene 6 No Explanation

Scene 7 The Game

At right: How would the 1948 pitchers fare against the mammoth swings of the bigger, stronger Indians of 1998?

up, they'd hand me the ball and tell me to pitch from shortstop. I'll leave my lineup the way it is."

"Your decision," the umpire said, "let's play ball."

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Upstairs in the Indians offices, Harry Lohr dialed Larry Doby's New Jersey number. "He went out for a walk two hours ago and should have been back by now," the voice answering the phone said. "We're starting to get worried. But I'll tell him you called when he gets back."

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

A buzz started in the stands at Jacobs Field. "Who are these guys? Weren't they supposed to play Buffalo?" was heard in every section. As the fans watched the Cleveland team soft toss to each other on the sidelines, Richie DiMarco realized his long wait for tickets had been worth it. If Uncle Frank was buying these were the 1948 Indians, this was definitely an event. Maybe it would make *SportsCenter*. The uniforms were great, the old gloves looked real, even the haircuts on the Cleveland players looked different than today's.

Richie decided if the Indians were putting on such a good show, and making his Uncle Frank happy, he was going to help things out.

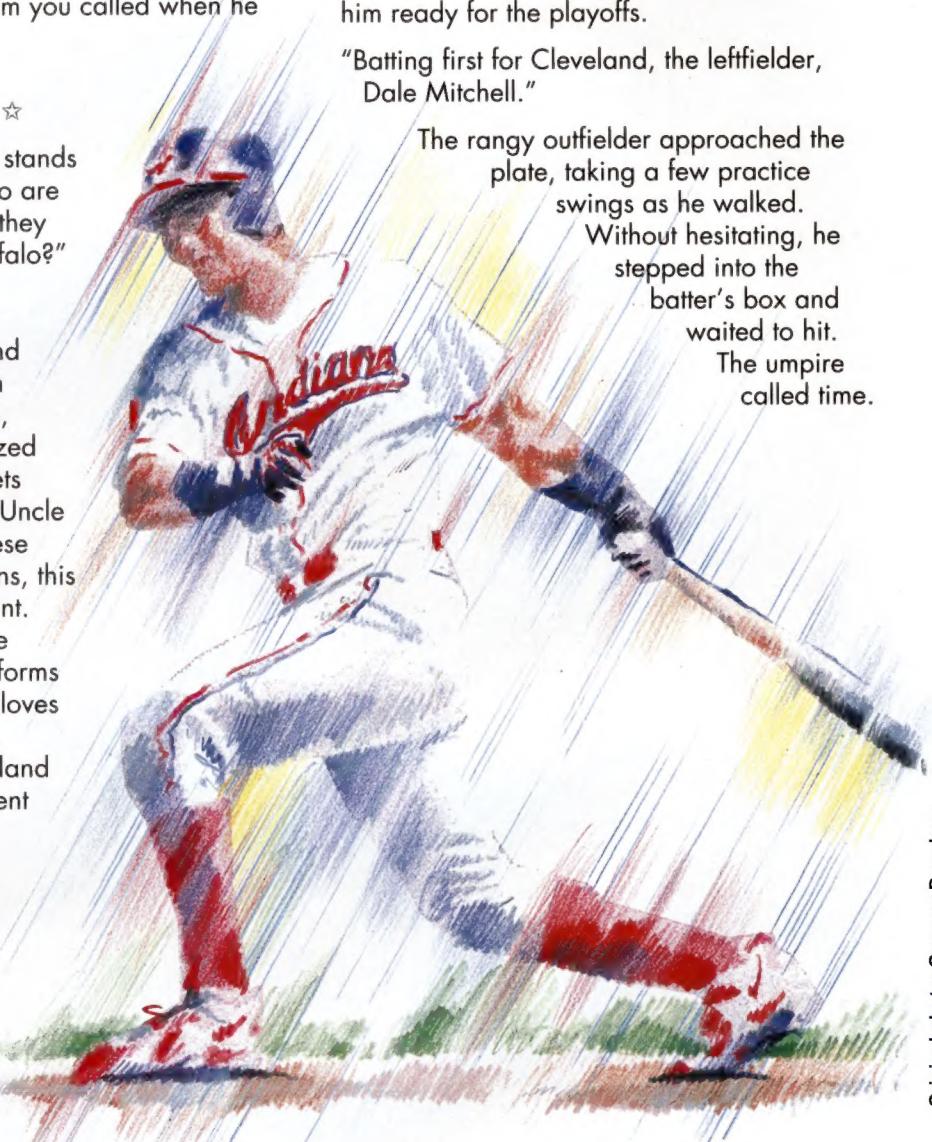
"Hey, Boudreau," he yelled out at the shortstop, "kick their butts tonight. Let's go Forty-Eight!" Richie saw some of the players on the Cleveland team look up and grin. It was all the encouragement Richie needed. He stood on his seat, turned to the crowd and began chanting: "Let's go Forty-Eight! Let's go Forty-Eight!"

Before long, the crowd in back of the dugout picked up the chant. They knew whatever players were wearing the vintage uniforms didn't have a chance, but it was fun to razz their home team. In the Indians dugout, the players heard the chant and smiled. "Hey Skip," one yelled to Hargrove, "I never played against ghosts." Hargrove smiled. "Just give them a good show tonight, guys."

Charles Nagy took the mound for the Tribe. Hargrove liked what he'd seen from Nagy recently — especially his 10-2, 7K win over the Tigers on September 4 — and wanted him ready for the playoffs.

"Batting first for Cleveland, the leftfielder, Dale Mitchell."

The rangy outfielder approached the plate, taking a few practice swings as he walked. Without hesitating, he stepped into the batter's box and waited to hit. The umpire called time.



Original photo: Gregory Drezdzon

"Son, you can't hit without a helmet."

On his head, Mitchell was wearing only his blue and red cap, with the red "C" in the center. "What do ya mean 'without a helmet?'" Mitchell replied in his Oklahoma

What If? Continued on Page 56

THE PLAYERS



Photo: Gregory Drezdon





BOTTOM OF THE NINTH

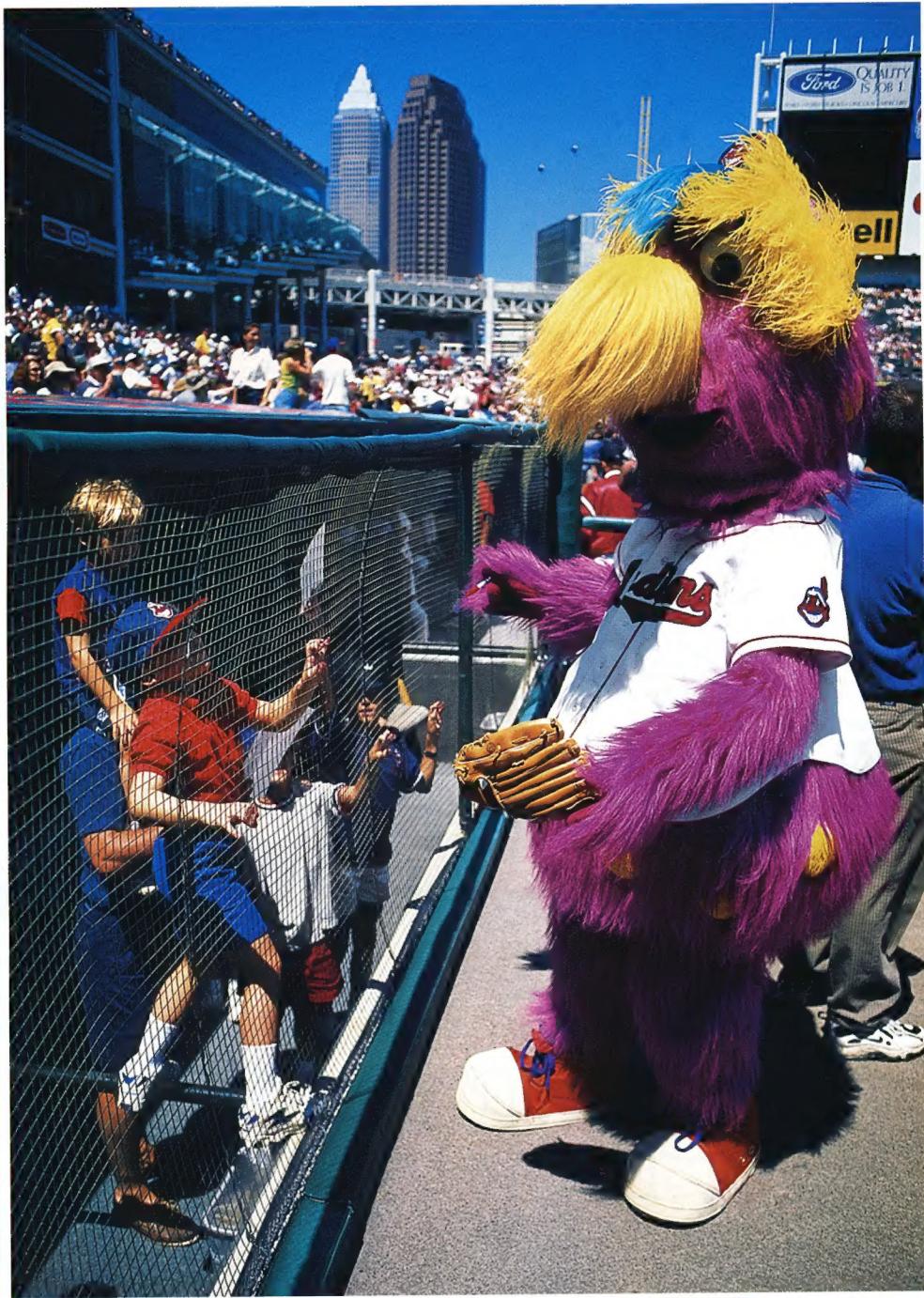


Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

Uh-oh, busted big guy . . . now give the kid's glove back!

